

Comments on the Paper of B.P. Vjuschkov “Locality of Permian Terrestrial Vertebrates in the Vicinities of the Town of Vyazniki”

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Abstract—The paper of B.P. Vjuschkov considering Late Permian vertebrates from the Vyazniki locality, prepared more than half a century ago and remained unpublished until the present time, was the first preliminary generalization of the geological and paleontological data on this burial. The material of this study collected by Vjuschkov during excavations in 1955–1957 revealed a unique composition of the local tetrapod assemblage compared to previously known contemporaneous analogues. Further studies of the Vyazniki fauna performed during the last decades provided a better understanding of its composition and age, showing that it is of paramount importance as a record of the terminal episode in the history of the Paleozoic precrisis biota.

Keywords: B.P. Vjuschkov, Vyazniki locality group, fauna, flora, vertebrates, taphonomy, history of research, stratigraphy, Late Permian

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I. ON THE MANUSCRIPT AND ITS AUTHOR

The manuscript prepared by Boris Pavlovich Vjuschkov and published in the present volume (Vjuschkov, 2018¹) was found in his archive by the coauthor of this account M.A. Shishkin. The manuscript was familiar to him much earlier, when, being a forth-year student of the Geological Faculty of Moscow State University, he prepared a term paper on an amphibian from the Vyazniki locality under supervision of B.P. Vjuschkov. In the list of references of this term paper (which was accomplished in April, 1957), the manuscript discussed was referred to as to be published in the *Regional Studies Collected Volume of the Vladimir Regional Museum*. But, as Shishkin could later infer from Vjuschkov's comments, the publication of such a volume lastly failed to be realized because of some organization problems. As evident from the aforesaid, the manuscript was prepared not later than March 1957. The fact that it was accomplished in that year is further confirmed by mentioning in it the time of acquisition by the author of a calamite from Vyazniki. Thus, the paper was written by Vjuschkov during the period between exploration of the

Vyazniki locality in summer of 1956 (when the stegocephalian skull mentioned in the text was found) and his last short-term works there in 1957. Most of the fossil material considered in the paper was collected during the first season of excavations, which were performed by the author in 1955.

The manuscript is a typewritten text (the second carbon copy), prepared for publication, with several sections and appendices. The insertion of Latin terms, along with some corrections, additions, and reductions were made by hand.² Accompanying materials usually required for submitting a paper are absent. The paper is the only generalized description of the results of excavations made by Vjuschkov in Vyazniki (Fig. 1) and its contents, including the data on geology and taphonomy of this locality, remain topical up to date. Evidently, only tragical death of the author in spring of 1958 prevented the publication of this quite completed work.

By publishing Vjuschkov's paper, we pay our respects to the memory to this outstanding Russian scientist, who made a prominent contribution to our

¹ Scanning, preparation of the text and initial editing taking into account all corrections and additions made by Vjuschkov were performed by V.K. Golubev.

² The appendix with N.I. Novozhilov's identification of conchostracans, which accompanied the manuscript, is included here in the main body of the paper. The appendix with explanation of geological and paleontological terms (apparently intended for the readers unfamiliar with them) is omitted.